PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO VALIDATE THE GENERIC NAME "TOXORHYNCHITES" THEOBALD, AS PUBLISHED IN 1901 IN THE "JOURNAL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE" (CLASS INSECTA, ORDER DIPTERA)

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The purpose of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its Plenary Powers to secure that the generic name *Toxorhynchites* (Class Insecta, Order Diptera) shall be made available for use in its accustomed sense with *Toxorhynchites brevipalpis* Theobald, 1901, as type species. For this purpose the Commission is asked to suppress the above generic name as published by Howard in anticipation of its publication by Theobald, since, if this generic name were to be recognised as from Howard, a most confusing change in the type species of the genus would be involved. The relevant facts are set out in the following paragraphs.

2 The generic name *Toxorhynchites* first appeared in *Mosquitoes* by L. O. Howard, published by McClure, Phillips and Company, New York, 1901, pp. 154, 155, 235, and 240. This was copyrighted in June 1901, a copy in the Surgeon General's Library, Washington, D.C. is stamped as having been received on 5th July 1901, and it was reviewed in *Science* on 9th August 1901. On page 234 Howard wrote, "Two other new generic names proposed by Mr. Theobald, viz.: Toxorhynchites and Conchyliastes, have been adopted and are characterized in the tables. It will be noticed that the characterizations are printed with quotation marks, and that they are followed by Mr. Theobald's name in parenthesis. This method of printing will make Mr. Theobald responsible for these genera as well as for Stegomyia, in the event that this book is issued from the press in advance of his publication". On page 235 the characters in the key leading to *Toxorhynchites* are given as follows:

" Palpi in the male at least nearly as long as the proboscis ; in the female less than one-half as long ; Legs destitute of such [nearly erect] scales ; ' Colors, green and bluish, proboscis very strongly curved ' (Theobald) ". It should be noted that only the characters in the last couplet are in quotation marks. On page 240 under *Toxorhynchites* Howard wrote, " These are among the largest of our mosquitoes and closely resemble those of the following genus [*Megarhinus*]. Our single species has all the feet marked with white : rutilus Coq. ". The figure of the female of *T. rutilus* on page 154 shows the palpi short.

3. If we accept *Toxorhynchites* as from " Theobald *in* Howard ", then it is a monobasic genus with *Megarhinus rutila* Coquillett, 1896 (*Canad. Ent.* **28** : 44)* as the type species. To accept this would be unfortunate since *Toxorhynchites* has universally been accepted as a genus (or subgenus) in which the palpi of the female are only about one-fourth as long as the proboscis, whereas in *rutilus* the palpi are about two-thirds as long as the proboscis. Howard apparently had a female of *rutilus* in which the palpi were incomplete and he failed to realize the fact.

4. The name *Toxorhynchites* was next published by Theobald on 15th July 1901 in *The Journal of Tropical Medicine*, vol. 4, p. 234. Here it was differentiated from *Megarhinus* and characterized in a key as, " Proboscis formed for suction ; metanotum nude . . . Palpi long in male, shorter in female ; first submarginal cell very small ; proboscis bent. . . . Palpi three-jointed in female. . . . Scales of the head are all arranged like tiles on a roof, flat ; thorax with spindle-shaped and broad scales over the wings ; scutellum with broad scales ; caudal tuft present on last few apical abdominal segments. . . . female palpi three-jointed and short ". No species was included by name.

5. Then, in *A Monograph of the Culicidae*, vol. 1, p. 244, published on 23rd November 1901, Theobald described the new genus *Toxorhynchites* based on the single species *T. brevipalpis* n. sp., p. 235. This species has short palpi in the female. Under *Megarhinus rutillus* [sic.] on page 244 Theobald wrote :—

> A figure of this species is given by Howard, in his " Notes on the Mosquitoes of the United States " (*Bull.* 25, New Series, *U.S.A. Dept. Agriculture*, fig. 21, p. 46). In this the palpi are shown very short ; probably they are broken off ; if not, it comes in the genus *Toxorhynchites*.
>
> [Footnote] Mr. Coquillett writes me that this belongs to *Megarhinus*, not *Toxorhynchites* ".

The figure referred to is the same as that published in Howard's *Mosquitoes*.

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* Owing to this species having been placed in a genus having a name of masculine gender its specific name has rather consistently been spelled *rutilus* ever since it was first published.

6. Edwards (1912, *Bull. ent. Res.* **3** : 3) discussed the use of the name *Toxorhynchites* in Howard, giving reasons for not accepting the name as valid in that publication. This conclusion has been accepted ever since then, although Edwards was incorrect about the invalidity of the name.

7. The genus *Toxorhynchites* Theobald is currently treated as the type genus of a family-group taxon within the family CULICIDAE. It is believed that the earliest such name is TOXORHYNCHITINAE Theobald, 1905 (*in* Wytsmann, *Gen. Ins.* **26** : 5).

8. Because the name *Toxorhynchites* has universally been accepted as having as its type species *T. brevipalpis* Theobald, a species with short palpi in the female, and in order to stabilize the name in accordance with present usage, we recommend that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should :—

(1) use its Plenary Powers to suppress the generic name *Toxorhynchites* Howard, June, 1901 (*Mosquitoes*) for the purposes both of the Law of Priority and of the Law of Homonymy ;

(2) place the under-mentioned generic name on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—

Toxorhynchites Theobald, July 1901 (*J. trop. Med.* **4** : 234), as validated under the Plenary Powers in (1) above (gender : masculine) (type species, by monotypy : *Toxorhynchites brevipalpis* Theobald, November 1901) ;

(3) place the under-mentioned specific names on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—

(a) *brevipalpis* Theobald, November 1901, as published in the combination *Toxorhynchites brevipalpis* (specific name of type species of *Toxorhynchites* Theobald, July 1901) ;

(b) *rutila* Coquillett, 1896, as published in the combination *Megarhinus rutila* ;

(4) place the under-mentioned generic name on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* :—

Toxorhynchites Howard, June 1901, as suppressed under the Plenary Powers in (1) above ;

(5) place the under-mentioned specific name on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* :—

rutillus Theobald, 1901, as published in the combination *Megarhinus rutillus* (an Erroneous Subsequent Spelling of *rutila* Coquillet, 1896, as published in the combination *Megarhinus rutila*) ;

(6) place the under-mentioned family-name on the *Official List of Family Group Names in Zoology* :—

TOXORHYNCHITINAE Theobald, 1905 (type genus : *Toxorhynchites* Theobald, 1901).

SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL BY F. HEMMING AND N. D. RILEY RELATING TO THE GENERIC NAMES " CHRYSOPHANUS " AND " BITHYS " HUBNER, 1818 (CLASS INSECTA, ORDER LEPIDOPTERA)

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(Commission Reference : Z.N.(S.) 802)

(For the proposal in this case see *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **13** : 13—21)

(Letter dated 4th February 1957)

Für die Deutsch sprechenden Lepidopterologen wird der Vorschlag auf Verwerfung des gast allgemein verwendeten Namens *Chrysophanus* für die " Feuerfalter " recht unerwartet kommen und ihre Kritik herausfordern. Dieser zu verwerfende Name wird in fast allen in der Hand der Lepidopterologen befindlichen deutschsprachigen Handbücher (Berge-Rebel, Hoffman-Spuler, Lampert und sogar Seitz) verwendet und erst in dem im Erscheinen begriffenen Werk von Forster & Wohlfahrt ausgeschieden. Es wird allgemein erwartet werden, dass man hier das " principle of conservation " anwende.

Gegenwärtig befindet sich aber die Nomenklatur der Genera der Lycaenidae in einem völligen Umbruch, der auf die Aufteilung der alten Sammelgattung *Lycaena* zurückgeht. In diesem Zusammenhange erscheint es wünschenswert, dass innerhalb der palaearktischen Gattungen der Lycaenidea vollständig " reiner Tisch " gemacht wird und in der Zukunft keine Zweideutigkeiten in der Gattungsbezeichnung mehr möglich sein werden. Der deutschsprachige Lepidopterologe weiss schon jetzt, dass er bei den Lycaenidae ihm noch nicht recht geläufige Namen für Gattungen oder zumindest Untergattungen anwenden muss. Er wird daher Verständnis dafür haben, dass im Zuge dieser " Flurbereinigung " auch der mehrdeutige Name *Chrysophanus* verschwindet.

In diesem Sinne unterstütze ich die von Hemming und Riley vorgeschlagenen Massnahmen.